

Sisters' Department.

OUR FRIENDS.

BY ETTA ROWLAND HARRISON.

Perhaps if there is one thing above all others for which we should be thankful it is our friends. They are gifts from God. To know that he whom you love loves you, gives ease of heart, mind and soul. Where there is ease there is happiness.

Happiness is the great prize for which mankind is striving. If you love your fellowman tell him so. It will not hurt you and will give him indescribable pleasure. Tell him so, not in words only, but in actions also. Has any one ever said to you in words, the tone of which assured you that they were sincere, "I love you?" If so, can you not remember the thrill of happiness and joy that passed through your soul? Has there ever been a time when you felt some one whom you loved was not reciprocating it? And can you not recall the peace, sweet peace, that filled your soul when, by a word or a letter from that person, this burden was lifted from you? And perhaps the author of the word or letter knew not when he uttered it what there was in it for the receiver. Both received a blessing. Oh, the weight of a word, who can measure it.

If such words give you comfort why be selfish with your brother and not give him a similar opportunity for happiness? Open your stubborn heart and liberate the caged thoughts which fill your soul. It will do you good.

There is an adage that "an open confession is good for the soul." Those who have tried it, by confessing their love for their fellowman, can testify to the truth of it. Why is it that we are so slow to make use of our opportunities of doing good? "He that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

What would this world be to us if we had no friends. Back of nearly every bullet that gives the world a suicide is the unbearable thought that unavoidable circumstances on his part have led his friends to forsake him.

Oh, brother, you know not what rash deeds and eternal misery you may save your fellowman by a word. The

wise man understood this fact when he said; "A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good it is." Meaning, of course, that it is good for both speaker and hearer. They that be wise seek and heed the counsel of the wise and godly who go before them.

Truly one of God's richest blessings to mankind are his friends; and for them there should often arise to the throne of grace our most sincere thanks. In your list of things for which to be thankful to your Maker, if you do not already have it, make haste to include your friends; thus showing your appreciation and worthiness of their love. And then do not forget to impress your love indelibly upon your friends' hearts. By following these truths God alone knows the results both for time and eternity.

SOCIAL SHAMS.

As an illustration of the undeveloped condition of the ostentatious person it may be well to describe the appearance of a certain woman whose husband had lately succeeded to great affluence. It was at a *pension* in Paris; the time, the eve of her departure for America. In loud strident tones this very kind-hearted matron detailed the events of her shopping expeditions.

"How many bonnets do you think I am taking back?" she asked. "Three or four? I have thirteen, one for each suit."

And forthwith she insisted on bringing out some of the handsome goods she had procured, to the intense amusement of the French and English fellow-boarders and the discomfiture of her modest American acquaintances.

On another occasion these latter Americans were ordering some suits of a dressmaker when a countrywoman entered. She had selected silks for her daughters, still in school, and wished to confer about the style of making.

Madam listened courteously. Finally, shrugging her shoulders, she burst out with, "Meeses, shall it be you wish so much showy trimming for ze young demoiselles? I like not ze taste. Have not ze young ladies time enough afterward for ze lace, ze velvet, and ze diamonds? I call that bad, very bad,

mooch too bad! Let ze dress fit ze age and ze occasion!"

Often and often since have the expletives of the disgusted Frenchwoman come to mind on seeing the ostentation of the ambitious. It is not confined to sex or age, but shows a noxious growth where ever there is excess of vanity and deficiency of culture and judgement. Though one wears a robe woven of gold and silver at an unsuitable time, it serves only to attract attention to the vulgarity or poverty of that person whom it is intended to adorn. "The most agreeable of all companions," says Lessing, "is a simple, frank person, one without pretention," "To be simple is to be great," says Emerson and all noble souls are of that order which in losing self-consciousness, also lose ostentation.—*Hester M. Poole, in The Chautauquan for January.*

The main reason why there are not more good boys is because there are not more good fathers.



THE YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR WORK.

BY H. M. Y.

The enthusiasm received from a live, energetic and successful young people's society at this place, together with some left over from the National Conference, prompts me to heed the call of our president of King's Children societies, and again take up my pen, which so far as the cause of the young people is concerned, has been idle since the days when E. Lincoln and Isaac Yodner did pioneer work in the young people's department of the EVANGELIST.

Perhaps there was a time when the young people did not have an opportunity to work; when the "old members" did not want us, and youth seemed to be a crime,—when the preacher and pious old deacons did all the praying and church work, but that time is not now,—although there is a class who, for a moneyed consideration, will undertake to "pray a soul out of purgatory,"